

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in view of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 5-7, 10, 13, 14, 16-18, 21, and 26 are withdrawn. The present amendment amends Claims 1, 11, 22, and 24. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 11, 22, and 24 are objected to. Claims 1-4, 8-9, 11, 12, 15, 19, 20, 22-25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Initially, Applicants and Applicants' representatives thank Examiners Morrison and Bollinger for the courtesy of the interview granted to Applicants' representatives on June 1, 2006. During the interview, the claimed invention was explained, and proposed amendments to overcome the outstanding objection and rejection were discussed. Examiners Morrison and Bollinger agreed that the claims as amended herewith overcame the outstanding objection and rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

With regard to the objection to Claims 1, 11, 22, and 24, Claims 1, 11, 22, and 24 are amended to delete the phrase "has a tendency to slip" from each of these claims. Accordingly, the objection to Claims 1, 11, 22, and 24 is believed to be overcome.

The outstanding rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites in part:

wherein the control device calculates a first drive amount of the drive device during a first interval from when the first detecting device detects the sheet to when the second detecting device detects the sheet based on information detected by the first and second detecting devices,
wherein the control device determines if the sheet slips in the first interval based on the calculated first drive amount of the drive device, and sets a second drive amount of the drive device after the second detecting device detects the sheet during a second interval from when the second detecting

device detects the sheet to when the drive device is stopped
based on the calculated first drive amount;

Thus, the control device keeps a running total of the drive amount of the drive device during the first interval. Therefore, at the end of the first interval, this final total calculated by the control device is the first drive amount. Accordingly, at the end of the first interval, the control device (1) determines if the sheet slips in the first interval based on the first drive amount, and (2) sets a second drive amount based on the first drive amount. The second drive amount is set *during* the second interval. As the plain meaning of “during” is “at some time in,”¹ the second drive amount may be set at any time during the second interval and still be within the bounds of the claim language. Accordingly, a short calculation delay after the end of the first interval for computation of the second drive amount is clearly within the scope of the claims. As the second drive amount is the duration of the second interval, this value can be calculated early in the second interval to determine the length of the interval, and thus conform with the claimed invention.

Further, it is noted that the phrase “wherein when the control device determines that the sheet has a tendency to slip, the control device calculates the first drive amount of the drive device, and sets the second drive amount of the drive device based on the calculated first drive amount” is deleted from Claims 1, 11, 22, and 24.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicant submits Claims 1-4, 8-9, 11, 12, 15, 19, 20, 22-25, and 27 are in full compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

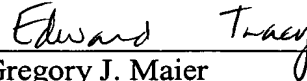
¹See, e.g., www.dictionary.com

Application No. 10/647,309
Reply to Office Action of March 2, 2006

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
I:\ATTY\ET\241514US\241514US-AMD6.2.06.DOC

Edward Tracy
Registration No. 47,998